

Remarks

The specification has been amended to coincide with the amendments made to the claims. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-3 and 7-8 remain in the application with claims 1 and 3 being in independent form. Claims 4 and 5 have been cancelled and claim 6 has been withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to various phrases in claims 1, 2, and 4. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 2 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions and has cancelled claim 4.

Claims 1-5, 7 and 8, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph. In particular, the Examiner bases part of this §112 rejection on the use of the claim language "reduced diameter" as it relates to each of the cylindrical faces in independent claims 1 and 3. While this language has been omitted from the claims and thus overcoming this rejection, it is noted that the reduced diameters of the cylindrical faces (as best shown in Figures 3A, 3B, 4, 5, and 10-13) are recessed into the part-spherical body of the trunnions. In order to form the *cylindrical* face on the part-spherical body, the cylindrical faces must necessarily extend into the part-spherical surface of the trunnions. As such, the cylindrical face must have a reduced diameter relative to the part-spherical trunnions.

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended in such a manner as to overcome the §112 rejection. Support for these claims and the amendments is found in Figure 3B and on pages 13 and 14. The specification on page 14 has been amended to coincide with the claim amendments. As pointed out in Figure 3B and the discussion on pages 13 and 14, the part-spherical outer surfaces of each of the trunnions includes a contact surface area (shaded area in Figure 3B) engaging the spherical inner face of the inner roller for receiving a load during rotation of the joint (i.e., the load bearing surfaces of the trunnions). There is a contact surface area on opposite sides of the trunnions along the trunnion centerline (depending upon the direction of rotation of the joint, one or the other contact surface areas bears the load). The cylindrical face is inclined in such a manner as to pass through the trunnion centerline across non-load bearing areas of the trunnion (separating the load-bearing contact surface areas) in the axial direction of the trunnions

(Figure 3B). As shown, the inclined cylindrical face is thus spaced either above or below the contact surface area so as not to cross through the trunnion centerline at the load-bearing contact surface areas. This allows the inner rollers to be installed on the trunnions via the cylindrical faces passing across the non-load bearing areas of the trunnions, while preserving the functional load-bearing contact surface areas of the trunnions. In other words, the cylindrical faces do not cut significantly into the operative load-bearing contact surface areas of the trunnions so as to maintain the integrity of the joint.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Application, as amended, is now presented in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. The Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any fees or credit the account for any overpayment.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.



Date: September 9, 2003

Samuel J. Hidle, Registration No. 42,619
The Pinehurst Office Center, Suite 101
39400 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48304-5151
(248) 723-0334

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that the attached **Amendment** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-5151, on **September 9, 2003**.


Brenda J. Hughes
Brenda J. Hughes